

February 16, 2017

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing

RE: THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

Chairpersons and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am submitting this testimony in **opposition to THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS**. In his proposal, the Governor seeks to reduce funding for the Services for Persons with Disabilities line item, which includes the **Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC)**, by 20%.

For 35 years, BIAC has received an operating grant from the Department of Social Services to provide **entirely free resources and supports** to Connecticut residents who have experienced a traumatic brain injury, services which the State is unable to provide. In addition to its direct services, BIAC is the only organization approved to provide the required advanced training for case managers under the Medicaid ABI Waiver program, as implemented last year.

BIAC is the **only entity** in Connecticut providing these essential services. Brain injury survivors encompass all ages and backgrounds, and the sources of brain injury range from sports-related to work-related accidents. BIAC's services help many Connecticut residents improve their functioning after a traumatic brain injury, with the goal of returning to functional independence.

If BIAC is no longer able to provide these services, DSS would no longer have the mechanism to provide these essential services required as part of the ABI Medicaid Waiver, and needed for compliance with CMS. BIAC's services only cost the state \$104,228 last year.

A 20% reduction in funding would severely impact BIAC and the services they provide to the community. Please maintain funding for the Services for Persons with Disabilities line so that BIAC can be there for those who need them most.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Traci Cipriano
Woodbridge